

MARTIN ANDREW STERN

May 10, 2003

Dear Sir or Madam:

The matter of media consolidation concerns me for many reasons. As an adolescent with an interest in knowing about the world in which I live, and the way my future is being shaped by current policies, I have been able to find out about the issue of media consolidation. The fact that I am an adolescent is the most important fact, as that means that I have a lot of time to pursue my interests. Unfortunately, most people do not have time to worry about how monopolies are being created without their consent, as they would have to do their own research to understand the issue. The media corporations clearly have no interest in informing their audience about this issue. They have one obligation, and that is an obligation to their shareholders. Complete coverage is not always compatible with that obligation.

By consolidating their business, the corporations obviously would be more efficient, and realize a greater profit. Consumers, however, would be deprived of any choices. I do not want to live in a country where the information supplied to the public comes from only a handful of sources. A democracy cannot exist without a diverse source of information, and depriving people of that diversity benefits only the company shareholders.

If this one issue has shown us anything, it is that media corporations will selectively inform the public if it suits their needs. It would be a tragedy if this were ever allowed to happen again.

Sincerely,

Martin Andrew Stern